



VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association

Leadership • Advocacy • Support

2026 VSBA Business Honor Roll Participation Guide

Thank You



Participation in VSBA initiatives and observances is optional. School boards in Virginia have the discretion on whether to participate locally. Any related materials from the Association are shared as suggested ideas for implementation for any member school board that may choose to do so.

2026 VSBA Business Honor Roll

Dear School Board Member/Superintendent:

Local businesses have the power to shape community attitudes about public education. The VSBA Business Honor Roll provides an opportunity for school divisions to publicly recognize businesses, organizations, and non-profits that go above and beyond in their support – especially as schools continue to navigate increasing budget challenges. This program allows divisions to say a meaningful “thank you” to those whose contributions strengthen our schools and communities.

Businesses of all sizes – whether corporate-owned or family-run – play a vital role in supporting public education. Their efforts can take many forms, including in-kind or financial donations, scholarship contributions, sponsorship of extracurricular activities, internship opportunities, volunteer work in schools, and support for student field trips. This type of community partnership is invaluable to the success of our students and schools.

If your division partners with a business or organization that deserves recognition, your school board is invited to nominate up to three for the 2026 VSBA Business Honor Roll. To participate, please **unanimously** pass a resolution (sample enclosed) and submit the online nomination form by **Friday, April 10, 2026**.

Later this year, VSBA will feature all honorees in the Association’s newsletter and on the VSBA website. In addition, personalized letters of congratulation will be mailed to each business, and divisions will receive copies of the letters and electronic certificates in time for presentation at a **May school board meeting**.

We appreciate your continued participation in this program and your commitment to highlighting the businesses that make a difference in public education.

If you have any questions, please contact Bella Corbo at bella@vsba.org or 800-446-8722 ext. 2.

Sincerely,



Gina G. Patterson
Executive Director

2026 Nomination Process

- ☐ **Complete the 2026 VSBA Business Honor Roll Nomination Form**
- ☐ When submitting the form, please attach all resolutions. Every resolution submitted **must** be signed by the **entire** school board to qualify.
- ☐ The letter and certificates will not be sent out until the nomination form is completed and VSBA has received a completed and signed resolution.
- ☐ The submission deadline is **Friday, April 10, 2026**
- ☐ Divisions may nominate up to **three** businesses or organizations.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

2026 VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

WHEREAS, public schools and local businesses are an integral part of this community; and

WHEREAS, many local businesses play a crucial role in supporting our schools; and

WHEREAS, the economic health of our community, state and nation depends on a strong public school system; and

WHEREAS, collaboration between local public schools and local businesses strengthens schools and the business community alike by providing a well-trained and highly educated workforce; and

WHEREAS, an excellent public school system is vital to the quality of life in this community and fundamental to preserving a strong democratic society now and in the future; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the [NAME OF SCHOOL DIVISION] School Board names [NAME OF BUSINESS] to the 2026 Virginia School Boards Association Business Honor Roll, showing appreciation for the ongoing [NAME OF BUSINESS]'s support of this community's public schools. Your work has aided this community in focusing on the goal of providing the best public schools we can for every child who attends them.

Sample News Release

News Release

For Immediate Release

[DATE]

Contact

[NAME]

[PHONE]

School Division Recognizes Local Businesses for Their Support

[CITY/COUNTY], VA – The [NAME OF DIVISION] School Board recently recognized [COMPANY NAMES] for their outstanding support of the division’s schools. These local businesses were honored through the Virginia School Boards Association’s (VSBA) 2026 Business Honor Roll program. Now in its sixth year, the program provides school divisions across the Commonwealth an opportunity to express gratitude to local businesses that make meaningful contributions to public education.

[INSERT COMPANY NAMES] were acknowledged for their continued partnership and support, including [BRIEFLY DESCRIBE CONTRIBUTIONS OR INITIATIVES – e.g., donations, mentorship programs, sponsorships, volunteer efforts, etc.].

“On behalf of the [CITY/COUNTY] School Board, our students, administrators, and staff, we extend our heartfelt thanks to these businesses for their dedication to our schools and the children of our community,” said [NAME], Chair of the [NAME OF DIVISION] School Board.

The Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through leadership, advocacy, and services.

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Tips for Honoring Business Honor Roll Recipients

Tips for School Board Members and Division Administrators

- **Present Certificates of Appreciation:** Use the certificates provided by VSBA to formally recognize each business during spring recognition events.
- **Engage Local Media:** Encourage newspapers, radio stations, and online outlets to feature stories about how local businesses support and impact your schools.
- **Showcase Gratitude on School Marquees:** Display thank-you messages to honored businesses on school marquees and digital signs.
- **Recognize Businesses at School Events:** Introduce business leaders during halftime at athletic events or other school gatherings. Include a message of appreciation in the event program or on the scoreboard.
- **Feature Businesses on Your Website:** Add a special Business Honor Roll acknowledgement or banner on your divisions' homepage.
- **Submit Editorials or Letters:** Share a guest column, letter to the editor, or opinion piece that highlights the positive influence of local businesses on student success.
- **Host a Recognition Reception:** Hold a reception for Business Honor Roll honorees before a regularly scheduled school board meeting.
- **Involve Community Organizations:** Ask community groups to invite honorees to speak about the importance of school-business partnerships in strengthening the local community.

Tips for Staff, Students, and Parents

- **Write Thank-You Notes:** Encourage students to create handwritten notes expressing appreciation for each Business Honor Roll recipient.
- **Invite Honorees to Schools:** Welcome business partners into classrooms and have students deliver a brief "thank-you presentation" during their visit.
- **Connect with Business Classes:** Invite recipients to speak with business or economic classes about how schools and students contribute to their company's success.
- **Share Student-Created Gifts:** Present honorees with student artwork, or offer school-branded t-shirts or sweatshirts as a token of appreciation.
- **Give a Living Gift:** Provide each Business Honor Roll recipient with a plant grown by horticulture students.
- **Create Student Opportunities:** Ask recipients about ways students can shadow employees or volunteer with their company to build workforce readiness skills.
- **Highlight Partners in Student Media:** Encourage student journalists to feature local businesses in school newspapers, newsletters, or blogs.
- **Sponsor a Student Contest:** Hold a poster or essay contest centered on thanking local businesses. Display the work in community spaces like banks, post offices, or libraries, and share photos with local media and the VSBA.



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